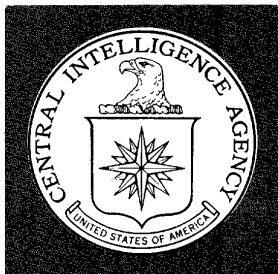


~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA /WVIND 701226



## WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

*Week Ending 26 December 1970*

**NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.**

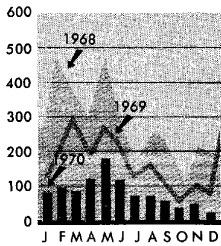
*For the President Only*

~~Top Secret~~

# SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

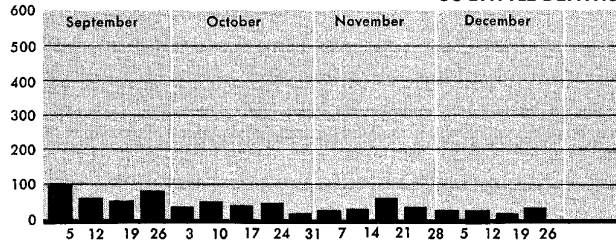
Weekly average for each month



SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1970

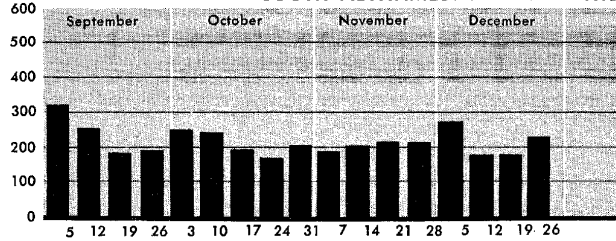
Weekly data as reported

## US BATTLE DEATHS



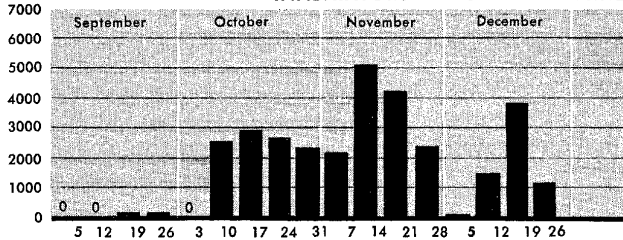
rose to 45 -- nearly double last week's five year low of 23.

## SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



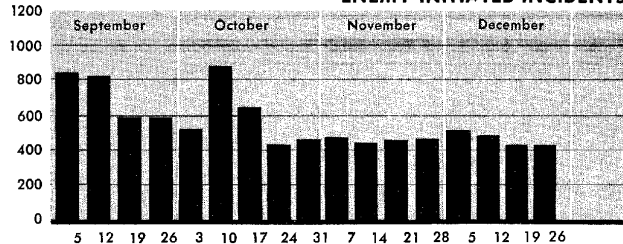
increased to 225 from the 181 of last week. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

## INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



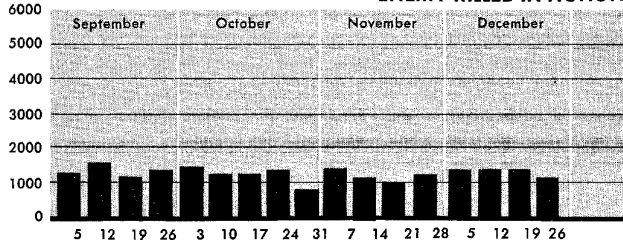
stand at three groups, with a combined strength of 1,200. The total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 is now an estimated 31,500 - 34,000.

## ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



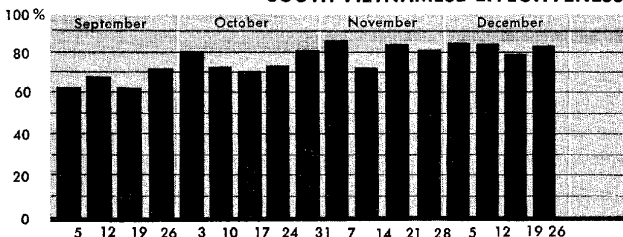
declined for the third week in a row as 417 were reported versus last week's 424.

## ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



decreased to 1,250 from the 1,404 of last week.

## SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percent - age of enemy killed by GVN forces rose to 83% from last week's 79%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Although there was a slight increase in enemy-initiated activity in Military Regions (MR's) 1 and 3 of South Vietnam, the overall level remained relatively low. The present pattern of activity, i.e., attacks by fire, small-scale ground actions, and terrorist incidents, seems likely to continue into the New Year. In Laos, military activity has remained at a low level. The friendly operation against the logistics complex at Ban Ban continues to make slow progress, but so far no real momentum has been generated. To the south, enemy probes and harassment of government positions on the Bolovens Plateau have continued, but no significant gains or losses have been reported. The level of enemy activity in Cambodia has been relatively low, but Route 4 from Phnom Penh to Kompong Som remains closed as the enemy maintains pressure against this strategically important route. The NVA 7th Division and two of its regiments have been detected in a southwesterly move toward northern Tay Ninh Province of South Vietnam. This should tend to reduce somewhat enemy pressure in Kompong Cham Province.

Enemy Infiltration

25X1

NSA

Three infiltration groups, with a combined strength of some 1,200, were detected moving southward during the week. [REDACTED] suggests that possibly another 1,700 personnel entered the pipeline during the week but are as yet undetected.

25X1  
NSA

Since 1 October 1970, the total number of South Vietnam/Cambodia bound infiltrators stands at an estimated 31,500 - 34,000.

The enemy logistical build-up continues at a high rate with a heavy volume of south bound truck traffic being detected on panhandle roads. The enemy will probably attempt to maintain a heavy traffic stream over these routes throughout the dry season since the loss of the port of Kompong Som (formerly Sihanoukville) in the spring of 1970 has made him totally dependent upon land lines of communication.

South Vietnam Developments

A few militant student groups tried to create anti-American disturbances in Saigon on Christmas Eve, but their attempts were frustrated by the forewarned police. Aside from this, the political scene in South Vietnam remained quiet, with most activity directed at preparations for the 1971 national elections. Although the idea of a run-off between the two candidates achieving the most votes in the presidential race has been abandoned, a draft bill, now being considered in the National Assembly, would tend to limit the number of candidates by requiring them to be sponsored by at least 40 assembly members or 100 provincial or municipal councilors. Opponents of Thieu assert that this plan would favor the president since it would force the Lower House members to declare themselves early for Thieu or face his opposition when they run for their own seats next August. Ky, meanwhile still remains undecided on whether to run. He thinks he would have a chance in a two-way race against Thieu, but would lose in a three-way race to "Big" Minh. An Quang Buddhist leader Thich Tri Quang told [REDACTED] that the An Quang would not give its official endorsement to Minh's candidacy as previously indicated, stating that he had become disillusioned over Minh's constant rebuffs of his overtures.

25X1

The Viet Cong strategy of attempting to build up their cadre of legal residents in the cities has made the infrastructure (VCI) more vulnerable to police security measures. Following recent successful roll-ups of VCI members in Saigon, Dalat, and Danang, the police moved this week to roll-up two more networks in MR 3. In Tan An City, 25 miles southwest of Saigon, the police arrested 12 cadres and identified 11 others. The detainees included three GVN military personnel and seven cadres of the city committee. Police operations against a rear services net northeast of Saigon resulted in the identification of 21 cadres, 11 of whom were arrested on 22 December.

25X1

Communist Developments

25X1

[REDACTED] When confronted this

week with the announced official list of 368 total PW's, Tworog said that the announced figure was correct, but that there were 15 additional PW's held in South Vietnam. It is not known whether Tworog changed his story merely to cover his original error or whether he is now quoting Trinh more accurately. Tworog did not give his source for the 15 figure. Meanwhile, following the GVN announcement of another release of NVA sick and wounded, Communist propagandists continued to take the line that the U.S. PW's cannot be placed on an equal footing with those Vietnamese "patriots" illegally captured in the south. In a rare reference to U.S. personnel held in the South, a Hanoi press commentator writing on 23 December stated that the "problem of U.S. aggressor pilots captured in the North, as well as the U.S. expeditionary troops captured in the southern part of our country, is a consequence of U.S. aggression in Vietnam."

~~Top Secret~~